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METRO NEWS

**M E T R O
B R I E F S**

NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

Asbestos removal set for West Bank

An asbestos-laced paving material that a Marrero company used to dole out by the truckload was so cheap and plentiful that longtime West Bank residents remember pouring it on their lawns to make driveways, playing in it and using it as fill. That was 30 to 40 years ago, when few realized how dangerous asbestos might be. But Thursday, hundreds of residents at public meetings in Marrero, Gretna and Westwego learned that government environmental officials consider the material — now aging pavement that's starting to crack and crumble — a serious health risk. The federal Environmental Protection Agency and the state Department of Environmental Quality plan to remove the asbestos-containing driveways and other pavement from at least 600 sites across the West Bank beginning next month.

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